

THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

THE "HEART OF THE LEAGUE"

As the months pass, more and more of the American people see the danger of entangling alliances in European affairs. The fallacy of the League of Nations covenant becomes more and more apparent.

The general public begins to see plainly what the few senators and other deep thinkers saw at first—that the League of Nations covenant would not only involve us in endless quarrels and disputes but threatened to nullify our constitution. The league has failed to function to stop the wars now going on in Europe. Selfishness, injustice, and hatred continue to rule while we raise the food to feed the fighters.

Disregard for law and order is spreading like wild fire over our own land while the League of Nations asks us to attend to everybody's business but our own.

It is probable that many of our citizens entertain a more or less vague notion of the influence the League of Nations covenant would have upon the welfare of the United States in case it should be accepted by this nation. Some have a visionary idea that world peace somehow would be established and made permanent if America should lend its power to the league. They have made no real attempt to estimate the cost to them or to their country of such a proceeding and permit their minds to dwell only upon the blessings that would come if war should be no more. Others have a more or less well defined notion that the independence of the United States would be compromised in some way if the covenant were adopted, but, they, too, would have difficulty in explaining their misgivings were they called upon for a reason.

Now, it requires no profound study of the 26 sections of the covenant, nor of the many wordy treatises that have been written upon it, to bring home to every one of our citizens a vivid realization of just what would happen if the United States were bound by its terms today, and what the future would hold for America were its restrictions to be applied to our progress. It is true that every one of those sections contains provisions more or less directly affecting our welfare, but there is one short sentence of the covenant that contains more potential evil for America than all the rest of the document together. That sentence is contained in the famous Article X, and reads as follows: "The members of the league undertake to respect and preserve against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all members of the league."

Every man and every woman who desires to cast an intelligent vote at the polls this fall should commit that passage to memory and ponder over it in the weeks that follow before the election. That sentence is the "heart of the league," to use Mr. Wilson's own characterization. Therein lies the pith and substance of the whole contract and a proper understanding of what it means is sufficient education on the much-discussed league to give every one a comprehension of its dangers. Were the United States a member of the league it would be bound under that provision to go immediately to the assistance of any one of the 45 other member nations, more or less, the moment it was threatened with attack by another country. America would be solemnly bound to "preserve the territorial integrity" of each separate one of that multitude of countries, great and small. That obligation would be distinct from the undertaking entered into by any other member. It would matter not to us whether the other signatories undertook to carry out their contracts or not. Whether they or any of them took steps to preserve one of their number from attack, it would be up to the United States to do so individually. The only alternative would be a disgraceful repudiation by Congress and the people of a most sacred covenant.

Now, Poland is one of those 45 member nations. Some of the others are India, China, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Haiti, Hedjaz, Japan, Portugal, Roumania, Serbia, Siam, Switzerland, and Persia. Poland at this moment is attacked along hundreds of miles of her frontier. Were we in the league our armies even now would be engaged in bitter warfare on the Polish-Russian front, and billions of supplies and hundreds of thousands of American soldiers would be hurrying across the Atlantic. War against many of the other countries is likely to break out at any time, whereupon the United States would be compelled to duplicate its program in Poland. How long would it be before our own fair land would be reduced to the level of many of the nations of Europe—bankrupt in men, money, and morale?

THE CHAUTAUQUA

The 1920 chautauqua has come and gone leaving behind it very pleasant memories in the minds of those who were fortunate enough to attend. For a little over a week the big tent has been pitched at the edge of the park and both afternoon and evening crowds of people carrying fans and cushions have been seen turning in at the entrance to the grounds. We have been entertained, amused, instructed and made to think. We have listened to high class music, heard good lectures, seen good plays and enjoyed ourselves in general. For over a week we have been led to forget business, social and domestic cares outside of business hours, and can now take up our routine work again with renewed vigor, refreshed in mind and spirit.

At a very small cost to the individual concerned, the chautauqua has been paid for in dollars and cents. The dividends it will pay the city on this small investment, however, will continue to come in all of the year. These dividends cannot be reckoned in cold cash, for they will be of a different and much more valuable nature.

The chautauqua will pay high dividends to all concerned in mental relaxation and moral uplift. For over a week those who attended were highly entertained with clean fun, sparkling humor, good music, and instructive and uplifting lectures. All questionable jokes or anything suggestive of the immoral or criminal were conspicuous by their entire absence from the program. Such a program raises the standard of entertainment for the whole community, helps to cultivate a taste for good music, and leaves the right sort of impression behind it.

Alma has reason to be proud of its chautauqua spirit. It speaks well of the whole community that the chautauqua is so royally supported here, and as the years come and go the guarantors of this institution may well feel that they have done a good work in aiding the growth of the right sort of community spirit, that spirit which should stand for wholesome fun and relaxation, uplifting entertainment, and intelligent thinking upon questions of public interest.

Happiness is not a commodity that can be purchased with silver or gold. It is a state of mind that is free in exchange for right living, pure thinking, clean associations and square dealing with your neighbors. It can be had in no other way. What we get of happiness depends upon our own attitude toward life in our every day associations with our neighbors.

If you have a job and like it work at it with all your might to make it worthy of your best effort and productive of success. If you don't like your job well enough to give it your best thought and effort quit it and get one you do like. This is the only way to accomplish anything worth while.

Postmaster General Burleson has asked for an appropriation of a million dollars for the payment of lost mail. This is rather unusual and we hope to be excused for asking who lost the mail and why it was lost.

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

County Committee Issues Call For Gratiot Meeting.

A county convention of the Republicans of the county of Gratiot is hereby called to meet at the Court House in the village of Ithaca on Tuesday, the 7th day of September, 1920, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of electing fifteen delegates to the State Convention to be held at Saginaw, Thursday, September 23, 1920, and for the transaction of such other business as may be properly brought before the convention.

The representatives of the various townships and wards in this Convention were fixed by the following resolution adopted at the Republican County Convention held February 5th, 1909.

"RESOLVED: That the various townships and wards of the county of Gratiot in future Republican conventions be entitled respectively to representation therein by one delegate for each thirty-five votes cast at the last preceding general election for the Republican candidate for Secretary of State and one delegate for each moiety of eighteen thereof, and that the County Committee be and is hereby instructed to follow this rule as a basis for the apportionment of delegates to future County conventions."

The several township and wards

will be entitled to the following number of delegates:	
Arcada Township	2
Bethany Township	2
Elba Township, Precinct No. 1	2
Elba Township, Precinct No. 2	2
Emerson Township	2
Fulton Township	4
Hamilton Township	2
Ithaca Township	7
Lafayette Township	3
Newark Township	3
New Haven Township	4
North Shade Township	2
North Star Township	4
Pine River Township	3
Seville Township	3
Sumner Township	4
Washington Township	2
Wheeler Township, Precinct 1	4
Wheeler Township, Precinct 2	4
Alma, First Ward	6
Alma, Second Ward	4
Alma, Third Ward	2
Alma, Fourth Ward	3
St. Louis, First Ward	1
St. Louis, Second Ward	2
St. Louis, Third Ward	2
St. Louis, Fourth Ward	2
Republican County Committee	
C. J. Chambers, Chairman	
O. L. Smith, Secretary	

If our coal produces clinkers, phone us. We buy them. Brown-Ward Co., phone 27.—60tf.

For poultry, eggs and cream try Short's Grocery.—adv.

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FALL TERM OPENS SEPTEMBER 7TH

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SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

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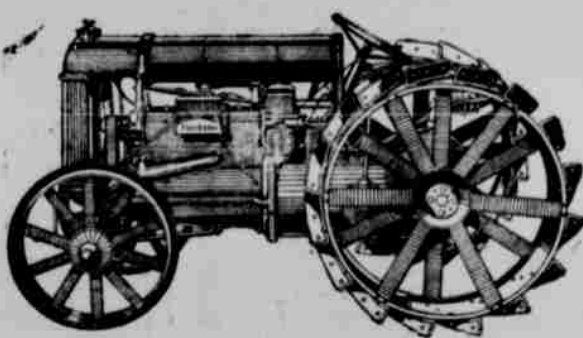
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TRADE MARK

We realize that to-day every wise farm owner thoroughly investigates the tractors that are most suited to his needs—looks up their records, the men who built them, and the way in which he will be cared for after his machine is bought. And in this way he gets the one machine best suited for his needs. That's just the message we would like to give you—how the Fordson was built to meet actual farming conditions, how it did that before it was put on the market; how it has upheld the name "Ford" among 110,000 Fordson owners; how we do not lose sight of our customers' best interests after the tractor sale is made.

The story of our service—our method of providing for and taking care of all "Fordson" owners' needs in our territory—is a vital consideration for you before you make your choice of machines.

All about the "Fordson" is a message well worth hearing—let us tell it to you in person.

Johnson & Thompson

FORD AND FORDSON SALES AND SERVICE

CHARLES L. BOOTHE, Salesman

PEACHES AND PEACHES

The Michigan peach crop will be good. We have bought some choice orchards, and can supply the people of Alma and vicinity with first-grade fruit at reasonable prices. Plan to can a good supply.

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Wholesale and Retail Fruit Store

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Men's
Suits, Pants, Topcoats
Boys'
Suits and Pants

National CLOTHING CO.

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